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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

CD NO.

COUNTRY Austria/USSR

DATE DISTR. 5 Oct.. 1950

SUBJECT Plans for Communist Demonstration

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE 25X1A

ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

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NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

DATE OF
INFO.

File
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[REDACTED]

1. Information [REDACTED] indicates the expectation of very extensive Communist action in the Soviet Zone, including the interruption of rail and other communications, the occupancy of police installations, and the seizure of public utilities. Major Communist efforts in Vienna are also thought likely. 25X1X
2. [REDACTED] 25X1X
October 1950, one Kornfeil, fnu, an Austrian who recently arrived from Russia, stated at a KPOe meeting in the second Bezirk of Vienna on the evening of 2 October 1950 that the Soviets had several divisions on the Hungarian border and would begin moving them into Burgenland and Lower Austria on 3 October 1950.** Kornfeil stated that the objective of the current demonstrations was for the Communists to take over all Austria; he conceded, however, that this was not likely to succeed. He maintained that the secondary aim was to separate Lower Austria and Burgenland from the rest of Austria. This was necessary, he stated, in order to involve the Americans in violence which would permit the Soviet Army to act. 25X1X
3. In his report [REDACTED] source further stated that ready squads consisting of twenty men each, were held in readiness that morning at all Vienna Bezirk headquarters for courier and other duties. Each party district was on that date canvassing all small and medium-sized enterprises in their areas, attempting to persuade the workers to join the strike. A strong effort was being made to induce Socialist youths (the FOeJ) to join the demonstrations. The KPOe planned to make a strong effort that evening (3 October) to disrupt the Socialist Trade Union meeting at the Konzerthaus. It was to attempt to push through a resolution of lack of confidence in Johann Boehm and other leaders.
4. At 1600 hours on 4 October 1950 an FOeJ action squad was to take over the Ravag station. The KPOe was also considering forming squads to occupy briefly, and to neutralize the Rotweissrot and Alpenland stations. The purpose was to achieve a Communist monopoly of radio broadcasts.
5. Russians in civilian dress were allegedly in evidence at Vienna KPOe headquarters, in the first district, and at FOeJ headquarters.

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6. Source stated that in general there was a lack of faith in the success of the strikes and demonstration among many KPOe officials.
7. On October 2, 1950 Robert Rossak, who carries on liaison between the KPOe and USIA, stated the following. USIA headquarters would release a statement on 3 October that employees would receive full pay for all time lost during the demonstrations of last week and the demonstration scheduled for 4 October. This reversal of USIA's former stand would remove a great impediment to participation in the demonstration. On 4 October Werkschutz members in civilian clothing would be brought from Zistersdorf and St. Poelten to Vienna in USIA busses and trucks.
8. All German-speaking Russians of USIA headquarters, and all factories in the Vienna area were ordered to participate in the demonstration in order to show solidarity with the Austrian workers. Street car and railroad traffic were to be halted throughout Lower Austria and Vienna by methods used last week. Rossak mentioned the possibility of Soviet intervention to restore order. Source speculates that this might be brought on by faking attacks on Russian personnel.

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- * Comment: Extensive information received from Austrian official sources on the recent and the apparently imminent demonstrations was made available by the Vienna station as received to USFA and the Legation. Both USFA and the Legation had received largely identical information from their liaison with Austrian authorities.

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- ** Comment: There is no information on this from other sources, and these statements may well have been intended to be morale boosters.

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